

Minutes of the Meeting
State Soil Conservation Board
Marriott Hotel
Indianapolis IN
January 17, 2006

Present

Bob Eddleman
Bill Mann
Warren Baird
Craig Beyrouty
Gary Langell
Nola Gentry
Larry Clemens

Others Present

Tammy Lawson	Jim Cherry
Jerod Chew	Bill Wilson
Cris Goode	James Droege
Waneta Lowe	Xavier Montoya
Judi Brown	Deb Fairhurst
Kenneth Eck	Darlene Fischer
Sherman Bryant	Norman Klusman
Gene Weaver	DeeDee Sigler
Margaret Weaver	Larry Strole
Ray Chattin	Chad Watts
Dan Dunten	Jim Lake
Dan Perez	Kim Wininger
Tara Wesseler-Henry	Chuck Westfall
Gwin White	Dean Farr
Bob Weaver	

Call to Order

Bob Eddleman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Bob stated that the SSCB was planning to meet quarterly around the State of Indiana. Gene Weaver is looking for a place to meet in the Southeast and Craig Beyrouty is looking for a timeslot at Purdue University, Lafayette Indiana.

A slight change was made to the agenda to move the IASWCD and NRCS reports up due to the Conference schedule.

- A. Tammy Lawson introduced the District Support Specialist for the 92 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Indiana.

Chuck Westfall, Northwest Region
Jim Lake, Northeast Region
Dan Dunten, Central Northwest Region
Kim Wininger, Central Northeast Region
Dan Perez, Central Southwest Region
Tara Wesseler-Henry, Central Southeast Region
Ken Eck, Southwest Region
Vacant position in Southeast Region

Mark Goldsmith who had served the Southeast Region took a position in another State for Wal-mart. The Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) will fill this vacant position soon.

State Association President's Report

Gene Weaver welcomed the SSCB to the IASWCD Conference.

Jim Droege, Vice President IASWCD asked that everyone check out their Conference program activities. He commented on the bills in the legislative session. Since this is a short session, no funding will be pursued.

Nola Gentry ask about the resolutions from IASWCD that had been brought before the SSCB. Jim reported the recommendations of the SSCB were taken into consideration. The IASWCD proposal maintained the CWI match of \$10k instead of increasing it to \$15k. This was with the understanding that the match was not limited to \$10k and this amount allowed for more flexibility with the grants program. IASWCD also researched other boards at the request of the SSCB. They found that other boards were all citizen boards. They went forward with their proposal that the SSCB become an all citizen board with advisory members from the state.

NRCS State Conservationist's Report

Xavier Montoya reported that NRCS has recently had nine employees retire. These vacant positions will need to be filled.

He announced that the partnership was holding a Partnership Appreciation Reception after the Awards dinner to say thank you to those Districts and staff that had were above "PAR".

Xavier reported that NRCS' funding was down from previous years.

Ohio is partnering with Indiana by funding \$4 million for Indiana NRCS and some Hoosier Districts to help with the Rapid Watershed, Great Lakes Erie Basin. Larry Clemens is on leadership team and will keep the SSCB updated on the progress of this project.

Xavier announced a new scholarship program. The full scholarship will be used to give a Masters or PHD student the opportunity to fill a need for a staff Economist. The applicant will be required to work for NRCS following graduation for the same amount of time the scholarship provided funding.

Xavier provided information on the CSP sign-ups. They had 100% acceptance the 1st year and 60-65% acceptance the 2nd year.

Jane Hardisty will be back from her detail sometime in March 2006.

Boot Camp went well and received a lot of good feedback.

Minutes

Waneta Lowe presented the minutes of December 13, 2005 for approval. No adjustments were made to the minutes. Craig Beyrouthy moved to approve, Nola Gentry seconded and motion was passed.

Supervisor Resignations/Appointments

Waneta Lowe presented, for approval, the new appointment of Sarah M. Baxter for Tippecanoe County SWCD to fill the position held by Roger McClellan. Roger McClellan resigned due to moving out of the

county. She also presented the new appointment of William Watts Jr. for Harrison County SWCD, due to the death of William Watts Sr. Gary Langell moved to approve, Craig Beyrouty seconded and motion was passed.

Waneta stated there were four districts with 50th Anniversaries to celebrate this year at their Annual Meetings; Whitley, Wells, Marshall, and Bartholomew Counties. Bob Eddleman suggested that the four counties be congratulated in Cultivating Connections.

Tammy Lawson presented a letter of resignation from David Avery stating dual office holding. The Governor is now in the process of reviewing someone to replace David.

Division of Soil Conservation Director's Report

Tammy Lawson, Director of DSC reported that a new tracking tool for the District Support Specialists had been created by Deb Fairhurst. This tool should enhance our District Support Program by monitoring support activity and establishing consistent support state-wide.

The Clean Water Indiana Grants Program Website has been established and additional support is available through their DSS.

DSC has two positions to fill, one District Support Specialist for the Southeast quadrant of the state and one Resource Specialist also located in the Southeast quadrant.

DSC will move four Stormwater positions in the next few weeks to IDEM. The remainder of DSC funds from DNR will soon be transferred.

DSC currently has two 319 grants in their final stages. 1) A Stormwater Manual is being finalized to be presented to IDEM. 2) A Stormwater Training Program which will be submitted for payment from IDEM.

Within the next month DSC will look into securing cell phones for staff.

DSC is developing a CREP Website and watershed specific brochures to assist landowners and to help SWCDs encourage participation.

Tammy has discussed finalizing the agreement with TNC and ISDA. There will need to be a separate agreement between ISDA and DNR. Also, the original CREP agreement was for 28 counties and Carroll County was inadvertently omitted, so an amendment to add Carroll is being reviewed and should be signed very soon.

The ICP (Indiana Conservation Partnership) Strategic Plan rollout will follow the legislative breakfast on Thursday morning; Bob Eddleman will lead the rollout. ICP Leaders, Lt. Governor Skillman and Chuck Conner will be in attendance. The media has been invited.

State Soil Conservation Board Report

Bob Eddleman, Chairman SSCB stated that nothing has been heard back on the Government Efficiency Commission Report.

Bob suggested the board set aside approximately 30 minutes at future board meeting to discuss SSCB objectives and to develop a plan of work.

IDEM Report

None

Farm Service Agency Report

None

Public Comment

None

Bob Eddleman adjourned the meeting at 9:58.